This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Extending the half-life of mAb therapeutics by blocking proteolytic cleavage	<p>A study in cell culture, human tissue and mice suggests that blocking proteases could extend the half-life of mAb therapeutics. IgG antibodies purified from breast carcinoma extracts of breast cancer patients or from synovial fluid of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients showed evidence of proteolytic cleavage at a specific IgG antibody site. mAbs treated with a tumor-associated protease showed a similar cleavage pattern, becoming less effective at binding and depleting target immune cells when injected into mice than intact control mAbs. Next steps could include engineering cleavage-resistant therapeutic mAbs or identifying protease inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1583 Published online Oct. 29, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Brezski, R.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 7, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904174106 Contact: Robert E. Jordan, Centocor R&D Inc., Radnor, Pa. e-mail: bjordan@its.jnj.com Contact: Randall J. Brezski, same affiliation as above e-mail: rbrezski@its.jnj.com</p>